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# 1. EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT FEARS WESTERN ECONOMIC PRESSURES

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The Egyptian government is now more concerned about the consequences of Western economic warfare measures than it is over the threat of Western force,

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The Cairo cabinet reportedly believes that effective economic measures would bankrupt the country in a

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very few months, and that the alternatives open to the regime would be either complete economic dependence on the Soviet bloc or growing unrest which would culminate in Nasr's downfall.

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The American embassy in Cairo reports that Egypt's existing industrial plant is already suffering from lack of replacement parts, especially in the communications field. The principal food problem facing Egypt in the next year is to obtain about 600,000 tons of wheat from abroad; 100,000 tons reportedly have been pledged by Syria, and an equal amount by Switzerland.

The embassy feels that the results of economic pressure might include the liquidation of the generally pro-Western middle class, which would be unable to stay in business under the economic controls the regime could apply.

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